



Department of Justice

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THREE AREA MEN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
ON COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CONVICTIONS

***Defendants Responsible for Distribution of "Crack" Cocaine in
Gaston, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg Counties***

CHARLOTTE, NC - On August 7, 2007, the Honorable Frank Whitney, U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, sentenced two local men who had been earlier convicted of participating in a crack cocaine distribution conspiracy that operated in Charlotte, Gastonia, Mount Holly, and Lincolnton, NC during 2005. Raymond London, 23, formerly of Charlotte, was sentenced to more than 38 years in federal prison, and his co-defendant, Edward Woods, 24, of Gastonia, was sentenced to more than four (4) years in federal prison on Tuesday.

The investigation was carried out by agents and officers of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.

In November, 2006, Raymond London was convicted at trial by a federal jury in Charlotte of conspiring to possess crack cocaine with the intent to distribute, possession of crack cocaine, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of the drug trafficking offenses. Woods had previously pled guilty to a single count of conspiring to possess crack cocaine with the intent to distribute. A third defendant charged in the crack distribution ring, Marshari Teal, 26, of Charlotte, also pled guilty to a single drug conspiracy count as well as federal firearms violations in furtherance of drug trafficking, and was sentenced by Judge Whitney to more than 15 years

imprisonment on July 10, 2007. During London's sentencing, Judge Whitney found that London was responsible for distribution of "in excess of 1.5 kilograms of crack cocaine."

United States Attorney Gretchen Shappert praised ATF and CMPD for their work involved in the investigation. The case was handled for the government by Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig D. Randall of the Charlotte U.S. Attorney's Office.

Federal sentences are served without possibility of parole.

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